



## Important Information

The U.S. Embassy recognizes Pakistani civil law as the governing law related to registration of marriages, births, divorces and deaths. Religious ceremonies alone are not sufficient for the purposes of immigration. Properly registered civil documents are required as part of the immigrant visa process.

For example, when providing a document to show that you have been married, you should submit your signed and registered Nikah Nama. When providing a document to show that you are divorced, you should submit a divorce decree that has been registered with the relevant Union Council.

Please note that notarized “rupee paper” statements of divorce, marriage, death and birth are generally NOT acceptable records of relationship. “Rupee paper” affidavits will only be accepted when registration with the appropriate government authority was not required by Pakistani civil law.

IR-5 applicants, please note that you **MUST** submit the original birth certificate of the petitioner, listing you or your spouse as the parent. If the birth certificate is in the possession of the petitioner in the United States, we will require that you obtain and submit the original birth certificate prior to visa issuance.

F-4 applicants, you must also submit the original birth certificate of the petitioner, listing at least one parent you have in common. If the birth certificate is in the possession of the petitioner in the United States, we will require that you obtain and submit the original birth certificate prior to visa issuance.

In both cases, if no such birth certificate exists, then you may submit an alternative, such as original school records or an original ‘Form B’ listing the parents.

Military personnel or retirees who were stationed throughout Pakistan may submit their service books instead of multiple police certificates.

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad is located on the Diplomatic Enclave. All applicants must take a shuttle from the Convention Center parking lot to the Embassy. The fee for the shuttle is approximately 20 Pakistani Rupees for a two-way trip. (The shuttle service is a private company, and the price is subject to change without notice.)

Applicants will not be allowed to bring cellular phones, cameras or other electronic equipment into the Embassy, and all bags are subject to search. Applicants may be prohibited from bringing excessively large baggage into the Embassy.

The immigrant visa interview process may take several hours. Refreshments are available at a small shop in the Consular Section, but the supply and selection are limited. Families with small children or persons with special needs should bring sufficient supplies to remain until mid-afternoon.

Due to security concerns, the Immigrant Visa Unit in Islamabad cannot meet with applicants or petitioners on a walk-in basis. Comments or questions about the immigrant visa process at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad may be directed to [PakIVInfo@state.gov](mailto:PakIVInfo@state.gov).